



Communi*que*

INS

Volume 20, Number 7

July 1997



**The
Next Generation in
Card
Technology**

Commissioner Addresses Trainees

ON GLOBAL REACH AND NATURALIZATION

Commissioner Doris Meissner addressed two training classes in June and used the occasions to outline progress in two major Service priorities.

On June 2, the Commissioner welcomed 44 officers to the Global Reach Training Program held at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Arlington, VA (see story on p. 10). The officers attending the training included many with extensive enforcement experience who will staff overseas offices—including 13 new ones—as part of the international initiative to enhance efforts against alien smuggling and immigration fraud.

“Our reasons for attacking migrant trafficking are compelling,” the Commissioner said. “These traffickers are ruthless and the threat has become global.” Organized smuggling rings are more prevalent than ever and are known to charge up to \$50,000 to transport an individual to the United States illegally.

In partnership with the State Department, INS has established cooperative relationships in each of its overseas locations. INS officers work with law enforcement officials in the host countries to investigate and prosecute smugglers and breakup international smuggling rings. In addition, they have trained over 8,000 in-country and airline personnel in fraudulent document detection.

New Overseas Offices

The openings of the 13 new overseas offices were announced at a Headquarters press conference June 18. Their locations include:

- In the Rome district, Accra, Ghana; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Johannesburg, South Africa, in the Rome;
- In the Bangkok district, Beijing and Cuangzhou, China; and Tokyo, Japan; and
- In the Mexico City district, San Salvador, El Salvador; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Kingston, Jamaica; Lima, Peru; Panama City, Panama; Port-au-Prince, Haiti; and Quito/Guayaquil, Ecuador.

On June 10, the Commissioner spoke about progress made in the Service’s naturalization program to officers attending a Naturalization Quality Procedures (NQP) training session in Glynco, GA. Repeating themes from earlier public statements and congressional testimony, she said that while correcting weaknesses in the naturalization program, INS should not overlook the program’s successful accomplishments or its ambitious new goals.

She stressed that the new NQPs currently being developed, “will allow us to achieve a Servicewide standard of quality and consistency [and] advance the quality assurance agenda for naturalization.”

“We are moving forward again.”

— Commissioner Doris Meissner

The Commissioner cited the use of a focus group made up of representatives from district offices, service centers, and the regions to revise the draft NQPs, which were then tested in Houston and El Paso “to make sure they were truly workable.”

While saying that last year’s Citizenship USA initiative should be seen as a “chance to learn hard lessons,” she also praised the INS employees involved in the effort to reduce to 6 months the waiting period from citizenship application to swearing-in.

“As Commissioner, I have the good fortune to participate in oath ceremonies once you have completed all of the hard work,” she said. “I get to shake the hands of immigrants whose eyes brim with tears at the realization of a dream...Only your work makes this possible.”

“We are moving forward again,” the Commissioner said, concluding her statement. “We have recognized our shortcomings and are facing them squarely. Crisis brings out the best and worst in people and in institutions. By working together, we will emerge stronger and wiser.”



Commissioner Meissner speaks to officers preparing for new overseas assignments as part of Operation Global Reach.

INS Communi**que**

Volume 20, Number 7

July 1997

The process of producing a new card begins with the application, as pictured above by an inspector in the San Diego district office examining photos submitted with an I-130. (Photo for INS by Bill Powers)

CARD PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY MOVES TO 'NEXT GENERATION'

By Lisa Ross
HQ Office of Examinations

INS is revolutionizing the Service's card-production process. Beginning this fall, the Service will issue state-of-the-art, credit card-sized documents, including the Permanent Resident Card (PRC) (formerly the Alien Registration Receipt Card), Border Crossing Card, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), Northern Mariana Card, and American Indian Card. The new Foreign Student and Exchange Visitor Card also will be produced during the pilot phase of the student program.

The documents will be the most technically sophisticated identification cards ever produced by the Federal government. They will contain several security features exclusive to INS. Other security features, while not exclusive to the Service, will be extremely difficult to duplicate. The tamper-resistant, laser-etched cards include the following security features:

- An optical memory stripe encoded with cardholder-specific information;
- An eye-visible map of the United States and the INS seal, and on the magnetic stripe micro-pictures of each president and state flags;
- A unique serial number and bar code below the optical memory stripe; and
- A color photograph of the cardholder, the cardholder's fingerprint, signature, A-number and biographical data including name, date of birth, and country of birth that cannot be erased or altered.

Other security features include a holographic overlay that refracts light into multicolored images and text, and digital data, holograms, and watermarks embedded in the optical media. These marks cannot be changed or altered without destroying or invalidating the card. Later, if further security is needed, other features can be added without changing the look or feel of the card.

Continued on page 5

What's Inside

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Naturalization Operations | 4 |
| New Card Production (cont.) | 5 |
| Removals Update | 6 |
| Asset Forfeiture Office | 7 |
| Strategic Plan for Intelligence | 8 |
| Report on Legal Immigration | 9 |
| Global Reach Training | 10 |
| Congressional Liaison | 11 |
| News from the Field | 12 |
| <i>New York Community Relations</i> | |
| <i>Miami School Partnership</i> | |
| <i>Chicago Outreach</i> | |
| <i>Laredo Lifesavers</i> | |
| Immigration 101: El Paso SRT Team | 14 |
| Tributes to Fallen Officers | 15 |
| People on the Move | 16 |



Organization Set for Office of Naturalization Operations

The organization of INS' new Office of Naturalization Operations, led by Executive Director Bob Bratt, was announced in early June, with two component branches responsible for improving the Service's overall naturalization process and ensuring the Naturalization Quality Procedures (NQPs) that have been developed are properly implemented in the field.

The Naturalization Procedures and Policy Analysis Branch will be responsible for quality assurance, policy and regulatory development, case review at the Lincoln, NE, service center, naturalization testing, process re-engineering, and name and fingerprint

checks. The Branch will be led by Jim Angus, who has been detailed from DOJ's Civil Rights Division.

The second component of the office, the Naturalization Field Operations Branch, will be responsible for coordinating, directing, and overseeing the implementation of Operations-related activities in the field. Led by Don Crocetti, associate commissioner for examinations, it will also ensure the ongoing field compliance with naturalization policies and procedures.

Said Commissioner Meissner in a Servicewide memo released when the organizational announcement was made on June 4, "Bob is assembling a team...of current INS employees,

experienced managers from other parts of the Department of Justice, and a cadre of contract employees. I urge you to welcome these new partners and colleagues, as well as some old ones in new roles, as naturalization improvement proceeds."

The new office, she said, will also be augmented by a Naturalization Task Force whose members will act as subject-matter experts to support the efforts of Bratt's office. While continuing to work in their usual positions, the designees will also meet regularly to review the progress of the naturalization program and help plan strategic initiatives.

DOJ Reports Preliminary Findings of KPMG Review

The ongoing review by the Department of Justice and INS of all naturalizations completed between August 31, 1995, and September 30, 1996, has found that of the 1,049,867 persons naturalized, 766,959 had no criminal records and 81,492 had records of arrests or INS administrative actions. The findings were reported by Stephen Colgate, assistant attorney general for management, at a briefing at INS Headquarters May 23.

296 individuals had felony convictions that make them "presumptively ineligible" for naturalization.

The first step in this review, conducted at the Lincoln, NE, Service Center, by independent consultant KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, was to match the INS naturalization data against FBI criminal history records in order to determine whether anyone who was naturalized might have been

ineligible for the benefit. Of the nearly 81,500 whose names were matched to FBI records, 16,400 had at least one felony arrest; 25,000 had at least one misdemeanor arrest but no felonies; 31,000 had INS administrative violations only; and 9,100 had no record of the FBI background check that was required for their naturalization. Each of these cases is being examined further to identify any convictions or violations that would disqualify the candidate for naturalization.

In the felony arrest cases, for example, a review of 15,536 cases so far has found 10,030 to have no convictions or other disqualifications and 296 with convictions that make them "presumptively ineligible" for naturalization. The latter cases are being reviewed to establish grounds for revocation of their citizenship.

In addition, 5,210 of the felony cases require further action to determine the disposition of the arrests. The review of these cases, however, found that 4,650 individuals misrepresented or failed to report their arrest records during the naturalization process, and may be subject to revocation proceedings. In such cases, the time limit for INS to begin the proceedings is 2 years from the date of the naturalization.

NEW CARDS

Continued from page 3

Improved Technology. The new cards will be produced by the Integrated Card Production System (ICPS) using a high-speed, continuous process that can mass produce 300 cards per hour. The process is consolidated at INS' service centers in Nebraska, California, Vermont, and Texas to strengthen the integrity and security of the process. Nonuniform hardware and software systems will be replaced with the new standardized equipment.

To prepare for the production process, INS has ordered two million optical memory cards and expects to use more than 30 million cards over the next 10 years.

Standardizing the card process and using top-quality materials will ensure that the new cards are durable, consistent, more easily recognized, and readily accepted as bona fide documents.

All information contained on the cards will be available in the INS database. When united with CLAIMS, the Service's automated application processing and inventory control system, issuing extensions or replacement cards will be simplified. In the future INS officers will be able to retrieve information instantly from the cards. All necessary information will be available from the database, eliminating the need to reenter data and rescan images.

A Transition to Service Centers. As part of the strategy for document standardization and process reengineering, the entire Immigration Card Facility (ICF) is in transition. Document production will be fully switched to the new card technology September 30. To ease the transition of the ICF functions to the Service Centers, the Texas Service Center (TSC) began processing 10 percent of the ICF work load on July 1. Another 10 percent will be added August 1, before the center takes over the entire ICF workload in September. During this time, the ICF will transfer its 2.8 million visa files to the TSC for storage and maintenance.

Johnston Recognized as Member of Business Paper's 'Federal 100'



Terry Johnston was recognized by Federal Computer Week as one of the 100 executives with the greatest impact on the government systems community in 1996. (Photo by Mitch Katz, INS HQ Public Affairs).

Terry Johnston, section chief of INS' Inspections Systems Support Program at Headquarters, has been selected as a member of 1996's 'Federal 100,' by the Federal Computer Week newspaper. Members of the '100' are chosen by an independent panel of judges, and represent the 100 government, industry, and academic professionals in the nation with the "greatest impact on the government systems community" in the previous year.

As part of her inclusion in the group, Johnston's background and experience was detailed in a special issue of the

weekly paper, and she was formally recognized during a reception and dinner at Washington, DC's, Sheraton Washington Hotel on March 19.

In her newspaper biography, Johnston was characterized as "buoying the PortPASS program through her unwavering support," and possessing the ability "to quickly identify problems, a crisp and direct manner of communicating, and an aptitude for making quick decisions, according to those who work with her." She is also integrally involved in the INSPASS and SENTRI system development and implementation processes.

Second Quarter Alien Removals Set Record;

NEW PLAN WOULD NOTIFY NATIONS OF ALIEN RETURNS

Recent criminal and noncriminal alien removal figures, released May 13, indicated two things: 1) with 22,595 aliens returned to their home countries, second quarter FY97 was the Service's best ever; and 2) second quarter FY97 activity ensures INS is on track

such as drug trafficking, murder, rape, and armed robbery. Martin credited the significantly higher number of criminal illegal aliens to three factors: 1) INS' sustained focus on criminal alien removals; 2) an increase in congressional funding for detention bed space, up to 12,000 beds this year from 9,300 in FY96; and 3) new resources for additional vehicles and increased Detention and Deportation staffing.

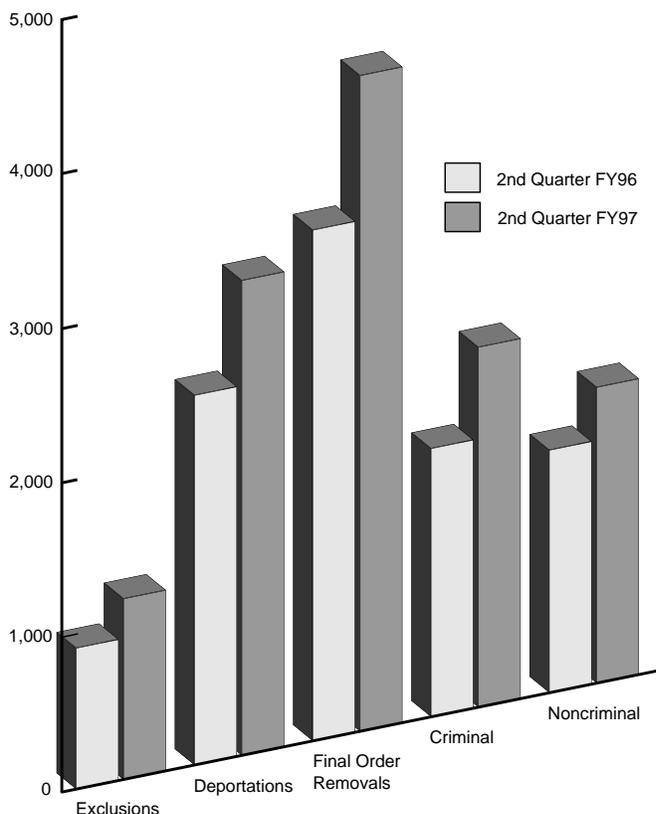
Another key reason for the overall increase in the number of removals, he said, was a significant rise in the number of removals in certain cities (e.g., in Miami the number of removals increased 144 percent, the rate in Chicago more than doubled, and in Dallas the rate nearly tripled compared to second quarter FY96). Based on these increases, Martin said, "we are on track to meet the goal of 93,000 removals this year."

A New Notification Process. According to Commissioner Meissner, who attended the press conference with Martin, INS also is developing—in cooperation with the State Department—a new, improved formal notification plan regarding criminal alien removals. The plan, due to be fully implemented this month, specifically will target Mexico and countries in Central America where these potentially dangerous aliens are being returned. The impetus for the plan was regional concern voiced during meetings held with the president and leaders of the nations of Mexico, Costa Rica, and Honduras.

"All of the countries to which we remove criminals are in need of information," the Commissioner said. "This [new system] will give them the opportunity to make the value judgments they need to make regarding their own public safety concerns."

In another issue related to her Central American and Caribbean trip, the Commissioner reaffirmed the President's willingness to work with Congress to address the current limit of 4,000 removal cancellations per year as allowed under new '96 Act regulations.

Second Quarter Removals, FY96-97



to reach its goal of 93,000 removals by the end of the fiscal year.

General Counsel David Martin, speaking at a press conference where the numbers were released, said INS removed 42,426 aliens during the first half of FY97, a number greater than the total number removed during all of FY93. The FY97 second-quarter totals represent a 34 percent increase over the same period last year.

Of the aliens removed during the quarter, 59 percent were felons convicted of crimes

New Law Strengthens, Challenges Asset Forfeiture Office

The '96 Act and Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which expand the Service's authority to seize and use for law enforcement purposes vehicles and other assets used in illegal activities, can bring new revenue to the Service.

Under the RICO Act, alien smuggling and some passport and visa offenses are reclassified as criminal racketeering. The new immigration law also amended the criminal forfeiture provision of the anti-money laundering law. INS is now authorized to seize proceeds obtained from certain passport and visa offenses.

gation where forfeiture is a potential. Asset forfeiture must be thought of early and often. The forfeiture potential in INS cases is great, and can prove to be very significant. We must be very aggressive in using it," he said.

According to AFO Program Specialist Sue Czerwinski, "INS must cooperate internally in this joint effort. Asset forfeiture is an integral part of every investigation. Criminals are in it for the money and that which money will buy. If we can produce a disincentive, we can make a powerful statement that will hurt them not only financially, but cripple their enterprises enough to put them out of business. That is the ultimate sanction imposed by forfeiture."

Field Management Branch Chief Joe Travis said, "Communication between this office, Investigations, and field agents must be continual if we are to make the commitment requested by the Attorney General [earlier this year]. Our office will provide on-site assistance to the field in their asset forfeiture investigations."

The AFO also is using external contractors to assist in the efficient implementation of the new authorities. "We have access to the DynCorp contract (under the terms of the Department's KPMG umbrella contract) for additional personnel to assist in forfeiture activities," said Susan Franklin, chief of the office's financial management branch. The cost of contract, she said, is charged directly to the Service's Asset Forfeiture Fund.

The challenge comes in successfully implementing the new authorities and accomplishing more with the resources on hand. Shaw said, "We have filled one major position—the program specialist for asset forfeiture. We were fortunate to have had the chance to hire Sue from the Secret Service. She brings with her the expertise of developing an asset forfeiture program from the ground up, and her experience includes, among other things, asset forfeiture case assistance, training, and policy and procedures development and implementation."

A Service memo developed for the Spring Plan budget submission stated, "Expanded asset forfeiture authorities present the INS an opportunity to significantly impact criminal activity through the timely use of forfeiture as a major investigative tool."

The memo suggests that a financial or forensic analyst be assigned to district investigations and anti-smuggling activities, and that "an essential analytic support capability needs to be integrated [into the district operations] as early as possible."



Seized in the El Centro sector February 8, 1997, this Mallard motorhome is now being used by the Border Patrol in the Yuma, AZ sector.

Asset Forfeiture Office (AFO) Director John F. Shaw said, "The expanded authority will have a significant effect on the way field agents conduct their investigations, and the use of this authority can have a powerful impact on the criminal element." A special initiative in the AFO is underway to ensure efficient use of the new authorities—expanded training efforts, program direction, and oversight and hiring new personnel.

"The most significant change in how business is conducted will be at the field level," Shaw said. He said this linkage to the field is more important than ever because local investigations yield many seized assets, and with the expansion of seizure authority, the number of field-based cases likely will grow significantly. "Preseizure planning must be included in every investi-

Intelligence Program

DEVELOPING SERVICEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN

By Agent Robert Harris
HQ Border Patrol

A strategic plan to improve intelligence support to the Service is under development by INS' Intelligence Program. The plan, one of the elements in the Commissioner's 1997 priority of strengthening border control and facilitation, will map out how to achieve a seamless, integrated intelligence infrastructure that supports current INS operations and provides direction to senior INS managers for future policy and planning.

Scheduled for completion by the end of this fiscal year, the plan will contain strategies to: 1) improve and expand the use of existing resources; 2) establish a comprehensive long-term staffing plan and resource needs; 3) determine the intelligence needs of INS' Enforcement and Examinations components; and 4) complete the

Intelligence Program's reengineering effort.

INS has contracted with LB&M Associates to conduct research and perform site visits at selected offices to collect the data necessary to develop the plan. To ensure that the final plan is consistent with INS



Louis F. Nardi, director of the Smuggling/Criminal Organizations Branch within the Headquarters Office of Investigations, discusses elements of the Intelligence Program's strategic plan during the recent development team meeting in Dallas, TX.

needs, the consultants are working closely with a Strategic Plan Development Team (SPDT) of INS managers selected from various Headquarters components and field locations, representing each of the enforcement and examinations programs.

The SPDT met with LB&M May 12-16 in Dallas, TX, to continue plan development and set guidelines for the overall scope of the plan. Small group discussions focused on the intelligence mission, intelligence requirements, intelligence products and services, intelligence resources, short and long-term resource optimization strategies, and measures of success.

George Regan, acting associate commissioner for Enforcement, called the first meeting a "huge success." The final product, he said, "will result in a significant, positive influence on the Service's enforcement efforts."

JPATS Alien Transports Doubled in Second Quarter

The number of aliens transported from point-of-origin to point-of-destination through the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS) increased 103 percent in second quarter FY97 over the second quarter FY96 level, according to a Service evaluation report released June 10.

This year 13,195 aliens were transported compared to just over 6,500 last year. Nationwide during the second quarter of FY97, 4,398 aliens were transported on average per month according to the report, compared with 2,172 transports as the monthly average last year. In the second quarter of FY97, 60 percent of the aliens transported were criminals, and 48 percent of the total came from the western region.

JPATS is conducted jointly by INS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the U.S. Marshals Service to provide a safe, secure, and efficient network for the transportation or removal of Bureau of Prisons detainees, Marshals Service detainees, and deportable aliens.



Detained criminal aliens are transported from Kansas City, MO to McAllen, TX.
(Photo for INS by Bill Powers)

FY96 Legal Immigration Increased 27 Percent

The number of legal immigrants to the United States increased to 915,900 in FY96, a 27 percent increase over the FY95 total of 720,461, according to a report released in late April by the Statistics Branch of the Headquarters Office of Policy and Planning.

The addition of the Section 245(i) adjustment provision to immigration law in 1995 increased INS' application processing workload, causing delays in approvals for adjustment of status. As a result, the increased admissions in FY96 were expected. Several factors affected the increase: a carry-over of unused family-sponsored preference visas in FY95, more employment-based visas, and an increase in immediate-relative admissions.

Legal immigration statistics in FY96 included:

- An increase to 300,430 admissions of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens (immediate relatives account for about one-third of all legal immigrants annually);
- An increase to 294,174 family sponsored preference admissions. Year-to-year fluctuations in admissions result primarily from changes in annual limits, not fluctuations in applications. The waiting list for a family-sponsored preference visa totaled more than 3.5 million people as of January 1997;
- An increase to 117,499 employment-based admissions. Petitions, required of all people seeking an employment-based visa, increased 20 percent between FY95 and FY96;
- Continued geographic residential concentration. Six states, California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, and Illinois, were the intended state residence of two out of three immigrants in FY96, and they have been the leading destination of all immigrants since 1971. Five

metropolitan areas: New York City, Los Angeles-Long Beach, Miami, Chicago, and Washington, DC, have been the main intended destinations of immigrants since 1993; and

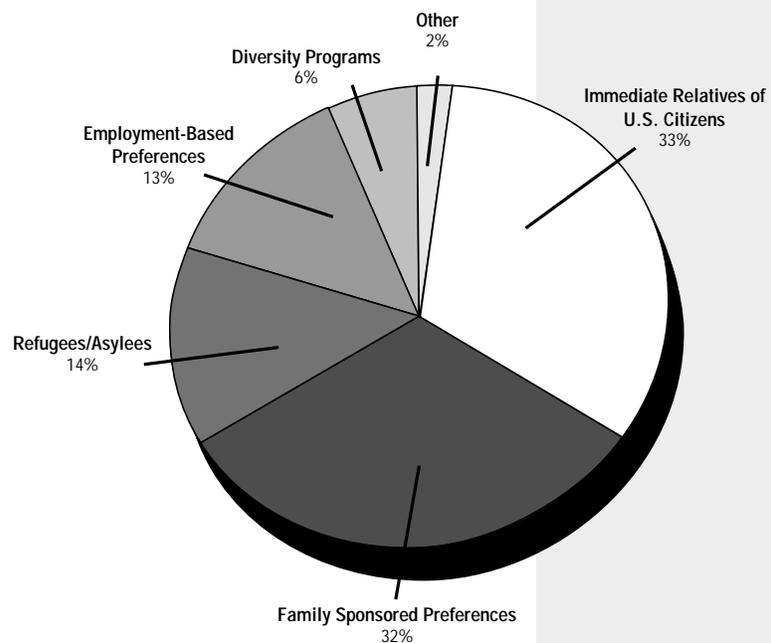
- Mexico's share of admissions increased 18 percent of the FY96 total, to 163,572. Mexico, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, China, and the Dominican Republic were the country of birth of 42 percent of all immigrants admitted in FY96.

The complete report, "Immigration to the United States in Fiscal Year 1996," is available on the INS intranet or from the Internet at <http://www.usdoj.gov/ins/public/index.html>. Additional information is available from Nancy Rytina, senior statistician in the Statistics Branch.

Immigrant Admission Categories, FY96

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizens | 300,430 |
| Family Sponsored Preferences | 294,174 |
| Refugees/Asylees | 123,174 |
| Employment-based Preferences | 117,499 |
| Diversity Programs | 58,790 |
| Other | 16,442 |
| Total | 915,900 |

Immigrant Admission Categories, FY96



Global Reach Training Prepares Officers for New Assignments

The Global Reach Overseas Immigration Officer Training Program, conducted June 2-21 at the State Department's National Foreign Affairs Training Center (NFATC) in Arlington, VA, provided 44 immigration officers with background, training, and familiarization to help them be contributing members of the foreign affairs community abroad, ensuring the success of their overseas INS missions.

Commissioner Meissner welcomed the officers and their spouses at NFATC at the beginning of their 3-week training program.

Working closely with the NFATC, the Headquarters Office of International Affairs offered a comprehensive, professional course to help INS personnel integrate into the diplomatic and consular post environments. Classes included "Introduction to Working in an Embassy," "Intelligence and Foreign

Policy," and "Security Overseas." In addition, International Affairs conducted sessions on overseas responsibilities, including administrative requirements, budget issues, personnel matters, payroll, and housing. INS' Training Division supplied contractor support for a Basic Instructor Training Program.



New officers selected for assignment through the Service's Operation Global Reach listen as Commissioner Meissner welcomes them to Washington, DC, for program training. (Photo by Rick Kenney, HQ Public Affairs)

Global Reach Officers and Their New Assignments

| Name | Former Duty Station | Global Reach Duty Station | Name | Former Duty Station | Global Reach Duty Station |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Caroll Anglade | Miami, FL | Rome, Italy | Charles Jean | New Orleans, LA | Port-Au-Prince, Haiti |
| Greg Archambeault | San Diego, CA | Athens, Greece | Richard Kalb | Miami, FL | Frankfurt, Germany |
| Norma Arocho | Denver, CO | Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic | Jack Lin | Newark, NJ | Beijing, China |
| Carlton P. Ayoung | Quebec, Canada | Hong Kong, China | Oscar E. Lujan | Laguna Niguel, CA | Tijuana, Mexico |
| Robert Ballow | San Francisco, CA | Ciudad Juarez, Mexico | Abraham Lugo | San Juan, PR | Mexico City, Mexico |
| Christina Bankovic | New York, NY | Monterrey, Mexico | Steve R. Martin | Los Angeles, CA | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| John Borman | New York, NY | Shannon, Ireland | Jim McClain | Washington, DC/HQ | Bangkok, Thailand |
| Robert Butler | San Diego, CA | Tokyo, Japan | Susan McClain | Washington, DC/HQ | Bangkok, Thailand |
| Jeannette Chu | Washington, DC/HQ | Guangzhou, China | Kevin McDonald | Baltimore, MD | Rome, Italy |
| Timothy Conway | Agana, Guam | Bangkok, Thailand | Bill McNamee | Washington, DC/HQ | Frankfurt, Germany |
| Edith Conway | Agana, Guam | Bangkok, Thailand | Frank Monin | Buffalo, NY | Frankfurt, Germany |
| Jorge Eisermann Jr. | Dallas, TX | Guatemala City, Guatemala | Deborah Nieto | San Luis, AZ | Orangestad, Aruba |
| Samual "Danny" Garcia | Miami, FL | Mexico City, Mexico | Allen Ouellette | Artesia, NM | Vienna, Austria |
| Juan M. Gonzalez | San Juan, PR | Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic | Frank Paez | Laguna Niguel, CA | Port-Au-Prince, Haiti |
| David Heri | Rome, Italy | Frankfurt, Germany | Lyn Palacios | Harlingen, TX | Singapore |
| Roger B. Holt | Port Everglades, FL | Shannon, Ireland | Chris Reed | Los Angeles, CA | Mexico City, Mexico |
| Robert Hlavac | Mexico City, Mexico | Guayaquil, Ecuador | Joseph M. Rogers | Orlando, FL | Frankfurt, Germany |
| John G. Hughes | San Diego, CA | Copenhagen, Denmark | Victor Schloss | San Diego, CA | Tegucigalpa, Honduras |
| Ann Hurst | San Antonio, TX | Copenhagen, Denmark | Paulette Sherry | Newark, NJ | Havana, Cuba |
| Ron Hydo | Bangkok Thailand | New Delhi, India | Edward Sotomayor | Mexico City, Mexico | Panama City, Panama |
| Fred Jackson | Laguna Niguel, CA | Kingston, Jamaica | John C. Tu | Los Angeles, CA | Guangzhou, China |
| | | | Orlando Watson | San Diego, CA | Kingston, Jamaica |
| | | | John Wilhelm | Columbus, NM | Bangkok, Thailand |

INS Congressional Liaisons Meet for Training in Nation's Capital

*By Mary Brodsky,
Eastern Region Public Affairs*

More than 75 INS and congressional staff representatives from 20 states attended a workshop sponsored by the Eastern Region Office of Congressional and Public Affairs (EROPIO) and the Headquarters Office of Congressional Relations (HQOCR) in Washington, DC, April 29 and 30.

The first day focused on the 29 congressional liaisons representing districts, sectors, and suboffices within the Eastern Region. Congressional staffers acting as Service liaisons were invited to join the workshop the second day.

Allen Erenbaum, director of HQOCR, welcomed the Eastern Region congressional

liaisons with an overview of the congressional program. He shared his vision for the HQOCR program and his past experiences as counsel to the Commissioner. Congressional Quarterly's Robert Mclean, a former congressional staffer, gave a presentation on the "congressional environment," including an explanation of the members' many roles and Capitol Hill organization and language. His presentation led into a discussion between two congressional staffers, who explained the hierarchy of the Hill staff and the differences between personal and committee staff for members of Congress.

The HQOCR branch directors Char Sobwick, director of the Support Programs

Branch; Hal Griffin, director of the Legislative Branch; and Bert Rizzo, director of the Technical Branch, outlined their respective branch functions and emphasized open lines of communication between the field offices, the regional office, and Headquarters. Summaries of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), and the FY97 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary appropriations also were presented.

Fifty-one congressional staffers attended the second day. Staff from HQOCR, Executive Office for Programs, Executive Office for Policy and Planning, and Office of Budget presented overviews of the HQOCR program and new legislation affecting INS. EROPIO conducted a panel discussion on processing at the Vermont Service Center, Benefits, Asylum, Refugees, Parole, Investigations, Border Patrol, and Detention and Deportation.



New York District Community Relations Easing

IMMIGRANT CONCERNS ABOUT NEW LAW

By Mark Thorn,
New York, NY, district

Demonstrating its commitment to community outreach and service, the New York district office is working with the local immigrant community to explain how INS is enforcing the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 ('96 Act).

Under the direction of Community Relations Officer Hiwatha Greene-Janvier, the district has conducted a special series of information briefings concerning the '96 Act and other immigration issues for individuals who assist immigrants in the affected communities, for example, leaders of nonprofit immigration support groups.

Designed to reach organizations providing immigration services from grassroots community-based organizations to consular offices, the briefings are the collaborative efforts

of the community relations branch of the district office, other INS staffers, and more than 600 other people, including representatives from community-based organizations, social service agencies, and legislative and consular offices. Many people have attended all eight sessions. Those who attend receive general informational material and an opportunity to address concerns during question and answer sessions.

"You may not walk away as a master of the new law," New York

District Director Edward J. McElroy said at a recent briefing for Federal, State, and local legislators, "but if you listen to what is said here today, you will walk away with a knowledge that will help you understand our processes and enable you to work with our contact people." He explained that the briefings demonstrate INS' commitment to education and cooperation with the local community, and to a continued effort to reach all people.



New York district community relations officer Hiwatha Greene-Janvier addresses consular representatives as part of the office's outreach efforts in May, as Adjudications Officer Alan Atkinson looks on.

Miami District Donates 100 Computers to Local Schools

The Miami, FL, district has begun donating surplus Service computers to local schools, making it the third INS district nationwide to participate in such an educational technology transfer program.

The first transfer of excess equipment to Dade County schools—which consisted of 10 computers and related hardware to the city's St. Albans Day School—took place during a formal ceremony on April 30. According to Miami District Director Robert A. Wallis, the office will donate 10 computers to local schools each week until their surplus stock is depleted. Most of the

machines are 386 IBM-compatible computers which, while fully functional, have been replaced by newer models within the district, he said.

INS districts in Arlington, VA, (Washington, DC) and Los Angeles, CA, have also established outreach programs to provide excess computers, monitors, and keyboards to schools in their local communities. Each of the programs was a result of Executive Order 12999 which encourages Federal agencies to contribute excess computers and accessories to schools and other nonprofit organizations.

Chicago District Reaching Out Through Partnership with Local Schools

In a move that echoes the Service's renewed focus on improved community relations, the INS district office in Chicago, IL, has entered into a partnership with several local organizations through which employees are conducting informational forums at public schools in and around the city.

According to the district's public affairs director Gail Montenegro, INS initiated the outreach partnership in conjunction with 'Chicago Communities in Schools' (CCIS), a not-for-profit organization serving 20 public schools in and around the city by repositioning existing

resources to more directly benefit students and their families.

"This partnership...is part of an ongoing plan to bring community forum and information fairs directly into immigrant communities in an effort to better serve the public," Acting District Director Curtis Aljets said after the program got underway. "INS is committed to addressing the needs and concerns of Chicago's immigrant community, and that's why it is extending its resources into the Chicago public schools."

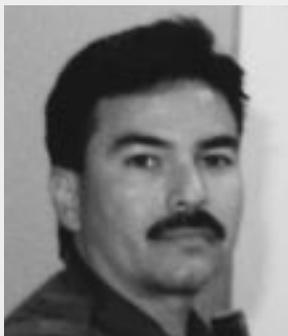
The forums will be held monthly at participating schools based on the level of demand, he said, with INS personnel available to answer questions about the citizenship process, alien rights, enforcement procedures, and other topics of concern to the local community.

Chicago district community relations officer Valentin Obregon and Assistant District Director for Examinations Shirley Roberts meet with a group of parents in mid-April at the city's Sawyer School.



Laredo Agents Save Life of Man Attempting Suicide

Two Border Patrol agents have been commended for their actions in saving the life of a man who attempted suicide in the Laredo, TX, sector in early March.



Senior Border Patrol Agent Ricardo Benavides, Jr., and Border Patrol Agent William Hollon noticed a car parked on a dead-end road and investigated. As the driver sped away, Agents Benavides



and Hollon saw a garden hose on the exhaust pipe and tape around the car's windows.

The agents followed the car to a nearby gas station where they helped the driver out of the vehicle. The car's interior was filled with exhaust fumes. The agents called for

emergency medical assistance, and stayed with the driver until it arrived.

Mike Herrera III, the Laredo sector's public affairs officer, said, "The quick actions of [these agents] was no doubt instrumental in saving this person's life."

Agents William Hollon (left) and Ricardo Benavides Jr. (right) were commended by Laredo Sector Chief Luis E. Barker for their quick thinking in helping to save the life of a suicide attempt victim.

The El Paso Search, Trauma, and Rescue Team

by SBPA Debi Hines,
STR team commander
El Paso sector

It's 3 a.m. when the phone rings. You just fell asleep, and your wife answers. "Honey, wake up, it's for you."

You're tired; you just finished your evening shift. A woman's voice on the other end of the line asks, "Are you available?" You reply wearily that you are, hang up, and crawl out of bed. Your wife recognized the woman's voice on the phone, and she's already packing your bags. She knows you have to leave. The call was from the commander of your Search, Trauma, and Rescue (STR) Team.

You put on your battle dress uniform (BDU). On your left sleeve is the Border Patrol patch, on your right sleeve is the EMT unit patch. You double-check your gear—gloves, carabiners, "D" rings, figure eights, tubular webbing, helmet, a rappel harness, and enough food and water for two to three

days. Then you kiss your wife good-bye and drive to the station.

When you arrive, team members are loading gear into the three transport units, converted to hold the STR team's medical equipment, ropes, and stretchers. The commander briefs the team on the mission: a 14-year-old girl has been lost in the New Mexico mountains for 12 hours. Soon you and 15 of the team's 30 members are on the way to the base camp.

The scene is familiar to members of the El Paso Border Patrol sector's STR team. The time of the phone call is not always the same, but the reason is: assist in a missing-person search and rescue. Once it was an adult male who was hiking in the Caballo Lake Mountains, fell 60 feet, and broke his leg, requiring team members to drop to his location from helicopter skids to help him off the mountain. Another time it was a female missing for two

days. While searching for elk antlers, she fell from a waterfall. The team found her body at 9,000 feet and had to carry it to the base of the mountain. The search for the lost 14-year-old, separated from her mother while hiking, has a happy ending. She was reunited with her family.

Patrol agents who voluntarily dedicate themselves to maintaining physical fitness, knowledge, and skills in search and rescue and medical techniques. Members often give up days off and time with their families to do so.

The STR team has responded to more than 450 incidents and provid-



Team members (l. to r.) Jed Tedder, Charlie Anzalone, Debi Hines, John Holmes, Mark Moore, Joe Guzman, and Manny Cruz, transport the victim of a simulated accident down a mountain side as part of a training exercise.

The El Paso STR team was established in 1987 by David Ward, currently the assistant patrol agent in charge for the Santa Teresa station, because he was concerned for agents injured in the field. Since its beginning, the team has had only two commanders and grown to more than 30 agents from seven stations within the El Paso sector. Most members are emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and all are trained in rappelling, high-angle/technical search and rescue techniques, use of ropes, and litter carryouts. All members are Border

ed emergency medical aid to about 650 individuals—Border Patrol agents, undocumented aliens, citizens, and officers from other law enforcement agencies. Since 1988, the sector has supported the team with funds for equipment and medical certifications and provides monthly training. At the national STR competitions in Uvalde, TX, the team has placed first and second in two competitions.

STR team members Debi Hines, Charlie Anzalone, and David Graham take time to teach elementary school children in El Paso about search and rescue techniques.



Commissioner Hosts Tribute to Fallen INS Officers

With the families of Border Patrol Agents Jefferson Barr and Aurelio Valencia in attendance, Commissioner Doris Meissner honored two fallen INS Border Patrol



Commissioner Meissner presents commemorative plaques to the parents of Jefferson Barr (top) and mother of Aurelio Valencia, the two Border Patrol agents killed in the line of duty in 1996. Standing with Ms. Valencia is her Border Patrol escort.

agents killed in the line of duty during 1996. The Commissioner spoke of the challenges and risks the Service's Border Patrol agents face each day, and of the courage shown by all of the Nation's law enforcement officers.

Law enforcement officers from all services killed in the line of duty are recognized in commemorative ceremonies throughout the country in mid-May each year. The INS ceremony was held at Headquarters on May 14.

Commissioner Meissner detailed the exemplary careers of the two agents, noting that Valencia received the Commissioner's Special Commendation Award in 1994 and Barr's children were presented with the

Newton-Azrak Award for Heroism by the Attorney General on behalf of their father during the 1996 Commissioner's Conference in San Antonio, TX. Both agents were lost fighting what the Commissioner called "one of the greatest scourges in America today," the influx of illegal drugs into the country.

"Agents Barr and Valencia made the ultimate sacrifice for this Service and for this country," the Commissioner said. She presented the families of the fallen agents with memorial plaques. "For this, no recognition or words can be tribute enough. We will never forget their courage," she said.

Texas State Resolution Honors Jefferson Barr

The Texas State legislature passed a resolution May 28 in memory of Senior Border Patrol Agent Jefferson Barr, who was killed in the line of duty January 19, 1996, in a isolated riverfront area near Eagle Pass.

As part of the tribute to their son, Agent Barr's parents, Kenneth and Gloria Barr, his wife Leigh Ann, and other family members met with State Rep. Pete Gallego, author of the resolu-

tion, and State Senator Frank Madla, and were presented with a commemorative American flag.

One of two Border Patrol agents killed in 1996 in the line of duty, Agent Barr lost his life after an exchange of gunfire with drug smugglers. He died on the eighth anniversary of his joining the Service.

A Walk in the Night

The fields of darkness are our home.
The winds from heaven we call our own.
Our trusted allies in the fight for right.
Against the smugglers of the night.

Armed with courage and a sense of danger,
We stalk the dark unwanted stranger.
While any man can talk the talk,
We, the 'Patrol, walk the walk.

Our fallen comrades are always near
Like mystic potions to cure our fear.
Like spirits of the pensive mind
They shield us on the borderline.

Employing skills of ancient man
We follow imprints in the sand.
With resolved persistence we stay behind
The smugglers on the borderline.

As we walk the way of desert trails,
We read the tracks of ants and snails
That cross the paths of future finds
Of smugglers on the borderline.

You smell them as you close nearby
When unseen cactus tears your thigh.
Your heart beats faster as still you lie
You fight the fear that tonight you die.

Somehow you manage to keep your head
Your thoughts in focus to the task ahead.
Your senses sharpen to a razor's edge.
The moment arrives, no time to hedge.

They hear with authority a familiar sound.
"Border Patrol! Hold your ground!"
"Drop your weapons and leave them lie.
The man who moves will surely die."

Coolly you secure the weed,
The evil plant that many need
To elude the truth and face their life,
To self-destruct in self-made strife.

Much much later, all beats calm
Except your heart which pounds along.
At breakneck speed it fills your mind
With this night's venture
On the Borderline...

by Fred Rangel
McAllen, TX

P e o p l e o n t h e M o v e



Simon Garza, Jr.

In the Field:

Simon Garza, Jr., the Service's deputy assistant commissioner for the Border Patrol at Headquarters since August 1995, has been selected as chief patrol agent for the Marfa, TX, sector. Garza, who has more than 22 years of INS experience, began his career as a Border Patrol agent in the Del Rio, TX, sector. He became a supervisor in 1985 and an assistant chief patrol agent in 1988. He was also the PAIC for the Del Rio station from 1990 to 1994 and deputy PAIC of the Del Rio sector from 1994 to 1995.

Curtis J. Aljets has been named acting district director in Chicago, IL, effective May 12, in place of Brian Perryman, who has been detailed to Headquarters as acting executive associate commissioner for Field Operations.



Curtis J. Aljets

A 25-year INS veteran, Aljets began his career as an immigration inspector. After working at the Portal, ND, port of entry and the St. Paul, MN, district office, he was promoted to port director for the Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Port Huron, MI, and Noyes, MN, ports of entry. Selected as the assistant regional commissioner for examinations in 1987, he later was named assistant regional commissioner for adjudications. He most recently served as associate regional director at the Central Region office in Dallas, TX, acting as the deputy regional director from February to May of this year.

Terry C. Nelson has been selected as the facility director for the Buffalo Federal detention facility under construction, which will house 300 INS detainees and

150 pre-trial detainees when it opens early next year. Since 1994, Nelson has been a staff officer with INS' Headquarters Detention and Deportation program. He began his INS career in 1985 as a Border Patrol agent in Calexico, CA, and also has worked as the facility training officer for the El Centro, CA, service processing center.

Larry C. Valladolid, senior special agent with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force in Portland, OR, was nominated in November for the Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association's Officer of the Year Award/Region I for 1996. Valladolid was nominated for his "dedication to the drug enforcement mission and promotion of interagency cooperation."

Correction: In last month's *Communique*, the *In Memoriam* article on Border Patrol Agent Miguel J. Maldonado incorrectly included a "Jr." following his name. In addition, Agent Maldonado, who was killed in the line of duty, has four nephews in the Border Patrol, including Danny Maldonado of the McAllen, TX, sector.

Communi^{INS}**que**

The *INS Communique* is published by the Headquarters Office of Public Affairs to inform employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service about official and unofficial activities. Readers are invited to submit articles, photographs, and letters to the editor. Write to INS Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20536; or ☎ (202) 514-2648.

News updates are posted on the INS NEWSLINE at: ☎ (202) 616-1994. This newsletter and other useful information are available also on the Internet through the INS web site at <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>.

Doris Meissner
Commissioner

Joseph Mancias, Jr.
Director of Public Affairs

Richard Kenney
Editor

Mitch Katz
Associate Editor

Cover: In San Ysidro, CA, Assistant Port Director Regina McGuire closely examines a green card suspected of being fraudulent. The new card technology aims to make counterfeiting harder to accomplish and easier to detect. (Photo for INS by Bill Powers)